

CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP
Chehalis Tribe “Lucky Eagle” Casino
Rochester, Washington
July 23, 2010
9:30 a.m.
Meeting Summary

MEMBERS, ALTERNATES, & GUESTS

PRESENT

Bonnie Canaday, Chair, City of Centralia

Lee Napier, Grays Harbor County

Bob Burkle, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)

Julie Balmelli-Powe, Lewis County Farm Bureau

Janel Spaulding, Chehalis Basin Partnership

Mark Swartout, Thurston County

Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County

Bill Schulte, Lewis County

Terry Harris, City of Centralia

Lyle Hojem, Citizen, Lewis County

Glen Connelly, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

Chanele Holbrook-Shaw, Citizen, Thurston County

Valerie Gow, Puget Sound Meeting Services

Chris Stearns, Thurston Public Utilities District

Kim Ashmore, City of Centralia

Miranda Plumb, U.S Fish & Wildlife Service

Kahle Jennings, City of Centralia

Patrick Wiltzius, City of Chehalis

Chuck Caldwell, Port of Grays Harbor

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of Meeting Summaries

Members approved by consensus the meeting summary of June 25, 2010

Salmon Recovery Funding Board – Habitat Work Group Recommendation

Members concurred with the project list recommendation by the Habitat Work Group (Technical Group) for submittal for SRFB funding

GENERAL PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS

Welcome, Introductions and Roundtable Comments

Bonnie Canaday called the July 23, 2010 meeting of the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) to order at 9:34 a.m. Everyone present provided self-introductions. A quorum was not present.

Chanele Holbrook-Shaw arrived at 9:37 a.m. A meeting quorum was attained.

Chris Stearns commented on Lewis County Commissioner Ron Averill’s disparaging comment at a recent flood control meeting that the CBP is too unwieldy and that nothing will ever get decided. Mr. Stearns said he perceived the remarks as disparaging as his involvement with the Partnership over the last year doesn’t reflect that. He said he stands for the interests of Lewis County in front of the US Army Corps of Engineers outside of the Partnership and he tries to be helpful and useful in terms of encouraging federal involvement in the projects that the county is participating in and doesn’t like to see any rudeness among the various people who work on the Chehalis basin. It’s unconstructive and not valuable to the Partnership or to the county’s own efforts.

Julie Balmelli-Powe arrived at 9:38 a.m.

Chair Canaday expressed appreciation for the feedback. Ms. Napier said the remark wasn’t stated during the meeting, but after the meeting. Mr. Stearns said the comments were published in the newspaper.

Lyle Hojem advised that it was likely a misunderstanding of Mr. Averill's comments as he has always been very supportive of the Partnership. Chair Canaday added that Commissioner Averill has attended CBP meetings and has never given any indication that he's not supportive of the Partnership.

Discuss and Adopt Draft Meeting Summary of June 25, 2010

Members approved the meeting summary of June 25, 2010.

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Status Report and Discussion Regarding Organizational Restructuring – WAACO Application Update

Janel Spaulding reported she contacted the Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations (WAACO) for an update on the status of the Partnership's application for legal assistance and was informed that it will be another three weeks before the agency matches the CBP with an attorney.

Watershed Festival Update

Ms. Spaulding updated members on the Watershed Festival. The Watershed Festival Committee is meeting again to establish the event schedule and compile the list of exhibitors. Many of the local environmental agencies as well as local, state, and federal agencies are participating. The water taste test will be held again this year. The City of McCleary was last year's winner of the water taste test. The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and the Lucky Eagle Casino are making a donation that will achieve the fundraising goal for the event. The festival is on Sunday, September 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Morris Riverfront Park and Rotary Log Pavilion.

Ms. Spaulding asked for input on any musicians that might be available. Several members offered names of groups.

Kahle Jennings displayed several photos of "FIN" during the recent Centralia July Fest on July 4th. "FIN" was funded from the City's stormwater department to provide education and exposure of the stormwater program. "FIN" is a 25-foot fiberglass salmon available through the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC), which is provided on a trailer. "FIN" participated in the 4th of July parade with the trailer dressed with a sideboard of messages about the stormwater program. "FIN" was parked after the parade at the festival. Children lined up to explore "FIN." The rental fee was \$300 for the weekend. "FIN" won the best youth entry and best of show entry in the parade. Mr. Jennings said he received many positive comments about the exhibit. The event is an opportunity to build on as it will take a combined effort to implement the Watershed Management Plan, and "FIN's" participation in the parade and at the festival is the City of Centralia's contribution to publicize the importance of water and stormwater management.

Ms. Holbrook-Shaw commented on the need for the Partnership to produce its version of "FIN" so that the Partnership has the resource readily available for participation in various events. There have been previous discussions about the need. There are many events and parade opportunities available to the Partnership. Mr. Jennings advised that at one time the mold was available. Kim Ashmore has contacted a local fiberglass fabricator in the City, who indicated that if the mold was available he could produce a fiberglass fish.

Mr. Hojem commented that many residents have shared with him their experience and the experience of their children at an event featuring "FIN". Often, it is the only activity they can recall from an event held many years ago. It does have an impact.

Mr. Ashmore shared information on the Centralia's School District to display "FIN" at all Centralia schools. The NOSC has agreed to rent "FIN" for a week at \$1,000. The school district will sponsor half the cost with Centralia Stormwater Department funding the remaining half.

Mr. Jennings offered to follow up with NOSC about the possibility of using the mold.

Chair Canaday shared details on Centralia's Summer Fest and the grant secured by Sierra Pacific for the Council to serve breakfast on the day of the event. The event ends with a demolition derby and fireworks.

Presentation - Centralia High School Rain Garden

Ms. Spaulding briefed members on the Centralia High School Rain Garden project. The effort involved nine students from Centralia, Elma, Aberdeen, and Hoquiam High Schools, Kim Ashmore, Janel Spaulding, and Sarah Shaw as supervisors and leaders. Project partners included the City of Centralia, Centralia School District, CBP, Pacific Education Institute, and Grays Harbor College.

The students built the rain garden at Centralia High School from July 6 through July 16 involving planning, designing, and constructing the rain garden. The team used the Rain Garden Handbook designed by Curtis Hinman from Puyallup Washington State University (WSU) Extension. The team worked from a project notebook and as participants, the students received one collage credit from Grays Harbor College.

The project was developed as part of two-week summer program through the college. Mr. Ashmore suggested building a rain garden at the high school. The goal of the program was creating a great demonstration rain garden for the community to view and learn about rain gardens and how they help water resources, as well as providing a good experience for the high school students.

During the first week, the team visited the WSU Puyallup Research Center and Extension Office to learn about its LID (low impact development) project including the use of rain gardens and pervious pavement. The team also viewed some rain gardens in small neighborhoods as part of the City of Puyallup's rain garden program. The students designed the rain garden as a group and excavated the rain garden site and installed overflow drain installation.

During the second week, the group added and mixed sand and a compost mixture. They visited Pioneer Nursery to purchase the plants. The group planted and spread mulch, installed interpretative signs, installed the irrigation system, and participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Ms. Spaulding shared some of the student's testimony about their experience with many citing the success of the project and the opportunity to learn how to create a rain garden. It also increased their awareness of the importance of streams and creeks and motivated them to create their own gardens at home.

Ms. Spaulding shared a series of photos of the two-week project from beginning to end. The rain garden was installed in a 70-foot area off the main entrance of Centralia High School. The rain garden replaced a planting of rhododendrons that were planted by the class of 1942, which included a plaque. The school permitted removal and replanting of the rhododendrons in front of the gym.

The rain garden includes three zones that are characterized by wetness requiring different types of plants. The plants cost approximately \$800. Funding was provided by the City of Centralia's Stormwater Department.

Students participating on the project included Matt Alviar, Lauren Chambers, Melissa Evans, Jarred Figlar-Barnes, Paul Perron, Jordan Scherer, Marissa Schmidt, Jade Shaw, Rebecca Shelly, and Andy Wolstenholme. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held on July 16 with over 40 people in attendance including project partner representatives and City and Centralia School District officials.

Ms. Spaulding acknowledged and thanked the City of Centralia and the Stormwater Department for funding the construction of the rain garden, Centralia School District and Centralia High School for allowing the construction, Pacific Education Institute for funding student transportation from Grays Harbor to Centralia, Coach Schultz for providing a tour of the fish pond at Centralia High School and for being an important stakeholder, City of Centralia employee Andy Wolstenholme for assisting with the construction of the project and motivating the students, WSU Puyallup Research Center representative Dory Clausnitzer for touring the center with the team and the LID project currently underway, and to all the wonderful supporters who assisted throughout the project and who attended the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Mr. Jennings complimented the efforts of Kim Ashmore, Janel Spaulding, and staff, as well as the CBP for their initiative and leadership.

Mr. Ashmore commented that the City's stormwater permit requires education and outreach. The goal of the project is creating some positive views of the rain garden to inspire others to create rain gardens. Centralia Middle School has expressed interest in constructing some rain gardens. The Department of Ecology has some grant funding available through the end of August for low impact development and retrofits. The City is considering submission of an application for a series of rain gardens. He noted that over 3,000 square feet of surface area drains to the two rain garden gutters. That drainage previously drained to the Chehalis River. The goal is eliminating stormwater drainage by infiltration through the rain garden.

Members participated in a question and answer quiz on the presentation and received a handbook on rain gardens from the Washington State University Pierce County Extension for correct answers.

Ms. Holbrook-Shaw shared information on recent recognition of Onalaska High School for its fisheries program. The high school will become part of New Market and will be expanding the program to involve more students.

Discussion followed on Oregon Trail Days at the City of Tenino and possible participation of "FIN."

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Cycle – Discuss Technical Review of Projects

Lee Napier distributed a project list for the 2010 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant cycle. The SRFB annually awards grants to project sponsors in Lead Entity areas for salmon recovery projects. This year, nine projects were submitted for funding consideration.

In 1999, the Legislature created the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). The Board provides grant funds through the Lead Entity process to protect or restore salmon habitat and assist related activities. Grants are awarded by the SRFB based on a public, competitive process that weighs the merits of

proposed projects against established program criteria. There have been some changes in how the funds are allocated, with the recent allocation directly to the region for the Lead Entities of that region.

Lead Entities are local, watershed-based organizations that solicit, develop, prioritize, and submit to the SRFB habitat protection and restoration projects for funding consideration. Lead entities consist of a coordinator (Lee Napier), a committee of local, technical experts (Habitat Work Group), and a committee of local citizens (Chehalis Basin Partnership).

The local process and review includes:

- Sponsors turn in Letters of Intent by March
- Early applications are distributed to the review team who visit the project sites and meet with the project sponsors to answer questions and help in strengthening the final application. Members of the SRFB review team also participate in the tour and provide valuable input to the project sponsors.
- Review team reviews and ranks each final application (project sponsors are not in attendance during this review).
- The CBP reviews and discusses the technical review recommendation.
- Grays Harbor County Commissioners provide final concurrence of project ranking and submits Appendix F (Lead Entity List) and a document describing the review process.

Miranda Plumb arrived at the meeting.

Ms. Napier shared photographs of the review team during site visits and acknowledged the following participants for their efforts in reviewing the projects sites and providing feedback to project sponsors:

Mark Swartout, Thurston County; Bob Burkle, WDFW; Miranda Plumb, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Mike Kuttel, Thurston Conservation District; Amy Iverson, WDFW; Miles Batchelder, WA Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership; Chris Conklin, Quinault Indian Nation; Andy Olson, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation; Janel Spaulding, Watershed Coordinator; and Bruce Treichler, NW Salmon and Steelhead Conservation Steelhead Society.

Ms. Napier displayed a map of all 47 salmonid habitat restoration projects funded since 1999 totaling \$7.6 million from SRFB and \$14 million in project sponsor match.

Mr. Stearns inquired about any change in the nature of projects funded then and now. Ms. Napier recalled her first SRFB grant process in 2000 and how the process has evolved and improved substantially since that time. Each year, the team learns from the previous year of what went well and what needs to be improved. In the last several years, there has been a good blend of projects, to include projects creating immediate results and projects building on other projects.

Mark Swartout recalled that earlier more assessments were completed because an inventory was required of all fish barriers as well prioritizing the tiers.

Ms. Napier reviewed the ranked projects recommended for funding:

1. **Grays Harbor Juvenile Fish Usage Assessment**, sponsored by the Wild Fish Conservancy. The project will examine current nearshore habitat usage patterns of juvenile salmonids in Grays

Harbor Estuary. The project will provide a better understanding of not only the estuary but an understanding of where future projects should occur. Bob Burkle shared additional details about the importance of the project. The project is an opportunity to secure millions of dollars for other projects. Mr. Swartout said the project will likely lead to more assessment projects. Mr. Stearns commented on the discovery of a herring spawn site not previously discovered near a mouth of the estuary, which is important as forage fish is a food source for salmon and Dungeness crab.

2. **Davis Creek Fish Passage Correction** sponsored by Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force. The project will correct the last remaining fish barrier culvert in the lower Davis Creek watershed that has not been funded for replacement. Davis Creek is located in the Oakville area. Correcting this barrier will provide unimpeded fish passage to an estimated 12 miles of anadromous salmonids habitat. The project includes several match contributions from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative, as well as Grays Harbor County for in-kind services.

Terry Harris suggested identifying the location of each project site by providing a map of the sites.

3. **Mills Property Acquisition** sponsored by Heernett Foundation to acquire 30 acres of intact habitat along a half-mile reach of Scatter Creek supporting a diverse population of endangered and threatened species. Preservation of the property will eliminate development from occurring and will protect the resource. The owner of the property wants the property retained in conservation use. The grant program can only fund up to the appraised value. Any amount over the appraised value is considered matching funds. The property hasn't been appraised at this point and the match will be dependent upon the appraised amount.

Ms. Holbrook-Shaw reported the Heernett Foundation is a local wildlife preserve in Tenino consisting of 1,000 acres. The foundation owns lands and protects them in perpetuity and provides education and outreach. Long-term goals are to protect the mainstem of Scatter Reach, which is a highly productive juvenile rearing habitat for Coho, Chum, Chinook, and Cutthroat. The foundation establishes criteria for selecting the appraisal, but the appraiser must be certified by the state. She identified the location of the property near Grand Mound off the state highway.

Ms. Napier pointed out that after acquisition of the property more efforts will continue. Ms. Holbrook-Shaw has been working with the neighbors and encouraging their involvement. The area is great location for environmental programs for school children. Ms. Holbrook-Shaw advised that the long-term plan is to include a bus parking area for students to access the creek. There is easy access and it's a good location off the highway. There will be long-term educational components associated with the property.

Ms. Napier reported the region's funding allocation is approximately \$2 million, which will be allocated to four Lead Entities, with Grays Harbor Lead Entity receiving another allocation because the entity is comprised of two WRIAs. That equates to \$648,000 for the Grays Harbor Lead Entity. The first three projects total \$628,000. The next project on the list is an alternate project that will also be submitted in the event more funding becomes available through the region:

4. The **Mill Creek Fish Passage** project removes a fish passage barrier and installs a 65-foot long by 14 foot wide concrete bridge or installation of a new driveway for the landowner and abandonment of the current crossing location by Lewis Conservation District. The location is off

Exit 77 off Childers Road. It is located within Lewis County. The existing barrier is an undersized culvert with an outfall drop of 25 meters. It opens 5.67 miles of habitat for anadromous fish usage. The barrier is the fifth worst barrier of 2,500 barriers in the watershed. Lewis Conservation District and the Mason Conservation District inventoried barriers and a working group of representatives from the Habitat Work Group developed criteria for ranking the barriers. The intent is to remove the structure and provide a new relocated driveway.

Ms. Napier reviewed other projects submitted for funding but not recommended:

5. **Frase Creek Barrier Removal.** The project is a culvert replacement and stream simulation to restore anadromous fish access opening up 2.74 miles of spawning habitat. Some of the issues surrounded cost and design and whether the location would be more conducive for a bridge. The barrier ranks 118th in the barrier assessment inventory.
6. **Lucas Creek Mile Post 4.2 Barrier Removal.** The project replaces an existing 3.5 foot span with a 36-foot culvert opening .60 lineal miles of high function spawning and rearing habitat.
7. **Lucas Creek Mile Post 4.3 Barrier Removal.** The project corrects a barrier culvert and opens up 1.84 miles of habitat.
8. **East Fork Satsop Reach Assessment and Project Development.** The project is for a reach assessment and restoration design and development project. The assessment will include the mainstem of the east fork of the Satsop from the confluence of the Bingham Creek and the east fork Satsop downstream to the confluence of the east fork Satsop and the mainstem Satsop. Wild Fish Conservancy will work with Schafer State Park on the project. Additionally, a reach analysis will highlight potential restoration projects on parcels outside of Schafer State Park.
9. **Chehalis Basin Invasives and Education Restoration.** The Chehalis Basin Education Consortium is leading the project working with The Nature Conservancy and WDFW and partnering with schools to educate and act upon the problem of invasive plant species in riparian habitats while partnering with The Nature Conservancy to control invasive knotweeds in the Chehalis Basin. There are many components of the project with other funding sources. WDFW joined the proposal and is looking at the Humptulips for inventorying and outreach and assessing the feasibility of starting a control strategy in the Humptulips watershed. The project created questions because of the various components and the outreach components are not eligible to receive SRFB funding.

Discussion followed on the problems associated with knotweed. Mr. Burkle said the plant is an annual that overwhelms native vegetation and prevents the setting of tree seeds preventing the growth of trees providing shade on the river and woody debris. The plants are very prolific and can root easily. Once established, the plant is difficult to entirely remove taking several seasons to fully eradicate the plant.

Bill Schulte inquired about obtaining a list of the top 10 barrier assessments. Ms. Napier confirmed that she'll forward a copy of the information.

Ms. Napier read a letter from Ric Abbett, President, Northwest Steelhead and Salmon Conservation Society, endorsing the top three projects recommended by the Habitat Work Group for SRFB funding.

Ms. Holbrook-Shaw complimented the HWG for its work considering the size of the watershed and the continuous amazing work the technical teams provide for the benefit of the basin.

Mr. Schulte asked whether the request is for consensus of the recommendation. Ms. Napier advised that she is seeking the Partnership's input. She outlined the next step of taking the recommendation to Grays Harbor County Commissioners for its review. The CBP serves as the citizen review group. Mr. Schulte commented that because of the deadlines he wouldn't be able to review the list with the Lewis County Commissioners and provide feedback in time to meet the submittal deadline. Ms. Napier said the CBP is serving as a citizen advisory group for the purpose of this discussion. Mr. Schulte asked whether the HWG is a subcommittee of the CBP. He was advised by several members that the HWG is a subcommittee of the CBP. Mr. Schulte commented that if the subcommittee is providing a recommendation then the CBP should approve the recommendation. He reiterated that the CBP must approve or disapprove the recommendation.

Chair Canaday asked whether any member objects to the recommendation from the HWG on the projects proposed for funding. No members objected.

Ms. Napier outlined the next steps. The SRFB will make a final decision in December. She noted that because project submittals from the Lead Entity have always been technically sound, the SRFB never questions the proposals. Additionally, the SRFB review team was complimentary of the process.

Several members acknowledged the work involved in the process.

Chehalis Basin Ecosystem and Restoration and Flood Risk Management Project Update (Basin-wide GI)

Ms. Napier reported the process is on a pending mode until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determines whether to include flood components that were being considered at the basin-wide level and adding them to the Project Management Plan. The last reporting of in-kind match from the CBP was in 2005.

Mr. Schulte clarified that the Corps is considering whether to combine flood risk components and the ecosystem and restoration project for evaluation at the same time with the levees.

Mr. Jennings said he would like to know how that would change Grays Harbor County's role as the Lead Entity if the projects are combined.

Mr. Stearns referred to the Nisqually assessment that led to the removal of dikes leading to the revitalization of the estuary and improved habitat for Chinook. Mr. Swartout said the effort involved \$10 million in federal funding opening up 720 acres of estuary.

Agenda Items for August 27, 2010 Meeting

- WAACO follow-up
- Watershed Festival update
- Update on Ecosystem and Restoration project
- Presentation and update on DNR's Mass Wasting Prescriptions-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Project.

Future agenda topics could include exempt wells from the Department of Ecology. Ms. Napier said she's invited Don Davidson from DOE to give an update at the September meeting.

Additionally, members requested a presentation from a project sponsor. Tentatively scheduled is a presentation from the City of Hoquiam to provide an update on a dam removal project.

At the October meeting, the U.S. Geological Survey has requested time to provide an update on the data collection work.

Ms. Holbrook-Shaw asked if there are any plans to pursue legislative efforts for the upcoming year. Ms. Napier reported she and Mr. Swartout are involved with a statewide committee discussing sustainability of watershed planning groups. Part of the work plan for next year is examining sustainability. DOE is also doing some work in the same arena and there may be some recommendations to the Legislature from DOE. She asked members if the Steering Technical Committee should review and provide a framework for the discussion and recommendation. The next meeting of the STC is August 5 at 9:30 a.m. at WDFW in Olympia.

Mr. Stearns reported on a meeting of Northwest floodplain managers from Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, Alaska, and Idaho at the Skamania Lodge from September 8 through September 10. Chair Canaday asked him to forward information to Ms. Napier for distribution to members.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Chair Canaday adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Prepared by Valerie L. Gow, Recording Secretary/President
Puget Sound Meeting Services